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CIA Chief's Testimony Sought In Wencke Case

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Attorneys trying to unravel the corporate labyrinth left by fugitive millionaire Walter Wencke say they want to ask Central Intelligence Agency Director M. Stansfield Turner if Wencke managed to disappear by going under cover as an agent.

Attorneys Alex Harper and Michael Zybal said this yesterday in the wake of a disclosure that Wencke had written a letter on April 2, 1979, offering his talents to the CIA.

Harper said Turner will be asked if Wencke was allowed to join the CIA. Locating Wencke is paramount to bringing him to justice, he said, adding that if necessary, steps will be taken to question Turner under oath.

Wencke, in his 1979 letter to the CIA, said he has a background of Chinese, Japanese, Russian and other languages and was in military intelligence during World War II. The letter stated, in part: "It would take many individuals with different skills to accomplish what I can do alone."

That was before he jumped \$100,000 bail last Oct. 9 by failing to surrender to begin serving a five-year term on his conviction of mail fraud in the operation of his Sun Fruit Ltd. He had been free on bond pending appeal, but the higher court upheld his conviction.

Wencke's overture to the CIA came to light Tuesday before U.S. Magistrate Harry R. McCue as Harper, Zybal and Ernest Kaufmann, an attorney for the Securities and Exchange Commission, pressed their quest for massive volumes of business and stock records

from the corporate maze that Wencke created. The records are sought by R.N. Gould, court-appointed receiver over much of the Wencke empire, involving in the neighborhood of 100 corporate entities and trusts.

"It's a bowl of spaghetti," Gould said yesterday, but he promised to bring some semblance of order at minimal cost so many public shareholders can be returned as close as possible to their original position of ownership.

Mrs. Wencke, again on the witness stand yesterday, said she has at her Rancho Santa Fe mansion a carton of mail that had been arriving over a period of time for Wencke. McCue authorized a screening of the mail, but only if Mrs. Wencke were present.

With that, Kaufmann and Zybal accompanied her to her home. She had volunteered to cooperate and, at the end of the court session, wept on the witness stand after the magistrate found no cause to hold her in contempt.

"I don't care about myself anymore," Mrs. Wencke sobbed. "It's my children. They're such outstanding young people to go through an ordeal like this."

Mrs. Wencke had faced a possible contempt citation for failure to cooperate in disclosing business records, but she insisted she had relinquished virtually all she thought were significant.

Harper said late yesterday that Zybal and Kaufmann, after the visit to the Wencke mansion, "got a clear impression there are additional documents" that are of importance to Gould.

He said the decision to pursue answers from the CIA was based on "what we didn't find in the mail" screened by Kaufmann and Zybal.

"Conspicuous by its absence was personal correspondence to Walter Wencke," Zybal said.